

CENTRAL AMERICA ACTIVISTS: SUPPORT THE RESISTANCE CONSPIRACY CASE

The U.S. government wants us to “forgive and forget” those responsible for the Iran/Contra crimes. Oliver North and other contra supporters have been convicted of only minor violations of U.S. law. They are all still free to continue organizing U.S. death and destruction in Central America, with the full approval of George Bush and others who will never go on trial at all. The politicians can put the war behind them, but the people of Central America are still suffering and resisting — they will never be able to “forgive and forget.” U.S. intervention continues — funding death squad governments; financing contras and the ‘opposition’ in Nicaragua; sponsoring a U.S. controlled election for ‘self-determination’ in Puerto Rico.

The Central America solidarity movement won’t so easily “forgive and forget” U.S. war crimes, either. Thousands of people are still dedicated to stopping U.S. intervention, trying to ensure that the Iran/Contra crimes aren’t repeated. Six of these activists are now on trial in Washington, D.C. for opposing U.S. policy in Central America. They need — and deserve — your support.

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE ON TRIAL IN THE RESISTANCE CONSPIRACY CASE?

Laura Whitehorn, Susan Rosenberg, Linda Evans, Marilyn Buck, Tim Blunk, and Alan Berkman are activists who have fought for the last 20 years against U.S. imperialist aggression — direct and indirect — in Viet Nam, Africa, Palestine, and Latin America. They have dedicated their lives to supporting self-determination for oppressed nations as a fundamental human right. Some of them have been Venceremos Brigade members; some have worked in Chile solidarity organizations, in CISPES, and in supporting Puerto Rican Independence. All have a history of solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution and all the popular struggles for justice in Central America.

These six women and men are anti-imperialists and revolutionaries. They became radicalized in the Civil Rights and anti-war movements and have supported the Black liberation movement and other national liberation movements since the ‘60s. They have fought against racism and the KKK here, against apartheid in Southern Africa, and against zionism in the Middle East. The women — two of whom are lesbians — are active in the women’s and lesbian liberation movements. All have worked in different ways to build a clandestine resistance movement in this country.

WHAT ARE THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM?

The indictment in D.C. charges them with conspiracy to “influence, change and protest policies and practices of the U.S. government in various international and domestic matters through violent and illegal

means." It also charges them with participating in , or 'aiding and abetting' four political bombings in the D.C. area: 1) against the U.S. War College at Fort McNair; 2) against the computer operations center at the Washington Navy Yard; 3) against the U.S. Capitol to protest the U.S. invasion of Grenada and the shelling of Beirut by U.S. warships; 4) against the Officer's Club at the Washington Navy Yard to protest the Ocean Venture war games in 1984. Each of these actions was "in solidarity with the revolutionary sovereign nation of Nicaragua, the liberation struggle of the Salvadoran people led by the FMLN-FDR, the national liberation struggle for independence and socialism in Puerto Rico, and all just struggles for self-determination of the people of the Caribbean and Latin America." (Red Guerilla Resistance communique, April 20, 1984). Warning calls were made prior to all these actions. Government property was damaged. No one was injured.

The government admits it has no direct evidence that any of these defendants carried out any of these bombings. These men and women will go on trial for being part of a "conspiracy to resist." The government will try to convict them based on their political associations, their long histories of activism, and their consistent support for the right of oppressed people to wage armed struggle to win their liberation. The prosecution case will be that the defendants shared a "common purpose" of resisting U.S. war crimes.

WHY SHOULD THE CENTRAL AMERICA SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT SUPPORT THE RESISTANCE CONSPIRACY CASE?

The U.S. government has not stopped committing those war crimes. When overt aid to death squads and contras raises an outcry, the Reagan and Bush administrations have turned to covert aid. When that is exposed, they go back to Congress with new, more palatable versions of military intervention. Recently, the much-heralded "war on drugs" has provided the cover for escalating military intervention.

People in the Central America solidarity movement understand the human cost of these crimes, the destruction of human life and the attack on human values that they represent. Tens of thousands of us have pledged not only to protest U.S. government actions, but to try to stop them — because it is just, and because our own liberation as human beings is tied to the victory of the peoples of Central America. From stopping munitions trains, to burning draft cards, to attacking weapons systems in the U.S. war machine, the Central America solidarity movement has taken responsibility for trying to change U.S. government policy.

When U.S. Attorney Jay Stephens announced that the Resistance Conspiracy Case would be prosecuted in order to teach a lesson to all who would break U.S. law or disrupt government polices, he was talking to us. The point of this prosecution is to intimidate those who would resist, and to limit our actions to only the most gradual and electoral forms of protest. Once people take action outside the boundaries set by law or pre-arranged negotiations, the state acts quickly to re-establish its control, to limit the changes our movement(s) can bring about. Supporting the Resistance Conspiracy Case defendants is one way of saying that we will not permit the government to define or limit our movement, strategy, or tactics.

Throughout the 1980s, the FBI conducted a massive, illegal investigation of CISPES and the entire Central America solidarity movement, disrupting the lives of many activists. Sanctuary churches were infiltrated, and charges brought. TECNICA and other solidarity workers were harassed, material aid convoys were intercepted. Puerto Rican Independentistas, Black/New Afrikan revolutionaries, and white radicals were targeted and imprisoned for the "crime" of fighting for human rights and national liberation. The Resistance Conspiracy Case was the last of those indictments brought by Meese before he was forced to leave the Justice Department. Now the Bush administration is pursuing this prosecution.

The trial itself will be high spectacle, a show trial for the power of the state over its opposition. The legal and human rights of the defendants will be virtually eliminated amidst the bulletproof wall that divides the courtroom, the surveillance cameras aimed at both the defense table and the supporters in the audience, the U.S. marshals ringing the courtroom, the hovering helicopters, rooftop snipers and military convoy that transports the defendants through the streets. It is in our movement's interest to stop this precedent of a militarized courtroom in a political trial.

Just as the Central America solidarity movement takes the war in El Salvador seriously, it is also important for us to confront political repression against our resistance movement. Even if we disagree with specific tactics used, defending and supporting people who are on trial for resistance activities is the only way to protect our movement against further attack. We can continue to have disagreements and debates over strategy and tactics, but the more we can unite and defend the entire breadth of our movement, the stronger we will be to achieve our common goals.

What's at issue in this trial is resistance to U.S. war crimes. Supporting the Resistance Conspiracy Case defendants is one way to expose the U.S. government as an international outlaw.

JUSTICE DEMANDS THAT THE CHARGES BE DROPPED

This fall, supporters of the Resistance Conspiracy defendants have initiated a campaign to DROP THE INDICTMENT. The six have already been subjected to 14 separate prior prosecutions and they have extraordinary prison sentences up to 70 years. This indictment was brought for political reasons, and political pressure can force the government to drop the charges.

A delegation will go to the Justice Department to demand that the charges be dropped, and we are encouraging people to write to their Congressional representatives and to the U.S. Attorney supporting this demand. The Washington Area Committee for Political Prisoners' Rights will be organizing support activities and demonstrations in support of the campaign to DROP THE INDICTMENT. Please contact them for information on how you can participate.

Part of the U.S. policy of denying the existence of its own political prisoners is to keep the defendants' perspective on the Resistance Conspiracy Case out of the media. You can help break through the media blockade by arranging for a representative from the defense committee to come to a meeting of your organization or group of friends to show a videotape and speak about the case.

- Publish updates on the case in your organization's newsletter
- The trial is expected to start early in 1990. Show your support by coming to court for pre-trial hearings and for the trial. You can commit your organization to joining a phone tree for court dates and help organize other people for court.
- Write and visit defendants at the D.C. jail.
- All forms of support are important, and help defeat the government's strategy of isolation and intimidation.

**RESISTANCE IS NOT A CRIME!
U.S. OUT OF EL SALVADOR!
VIVA NICARAGUA Y CUBA LIBRE!
INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO!
FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND
PRISONERS OF WAR!**

**WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE
FOR POLITICAL PRISONER'S RIGHTS
P.O. BOX 28191
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20038-8191**

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